

April 16, 2021

Hon. Justin T. Williams
The Public Service Commission of SC
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
contact@PSC.SC.gov, 803-896-5100

Dear Chairman Williams,

First off, I would like to thank you and the other Commissioners for your tireless work and for the opportunity to comment. As the Mayor of the City of Hanahan, South Carolina I wanted to express my concern about the impact of Dominion Energy South Carolina's Solar Choice Metering Tariff on our community.

The City of Hanahan values clean energy sources as a way to build more sustainable communities for the health and prosperity of our citizens and for future generations to come. Many Hanahan residents have chosen solar as a way to produce clean energy for their homes. Just last year, there were 661 permits for solar installations in the tri-county area.

Solar panels are one of the few options citizens have to lower utility costs and mitigate climate change. Situated in the Lowcountry, Hanahan is on the frontline of climate impacts like sea level rise. Anything our citizens can do to mitigate climate change in our region and state should be embraced and encouraged. Beyond the environmental benefits of solar, the City of Hanahan (as well as the rest of the state) benefits from the jobs and economic development the growing solar industry provides. Outlined by [Bryan Cordell in a recent City Paper article](#)¹, there are a wide range of benefits to rooftop solar even for non-solar customers. I hope a complete list of solar benefits are considered in the Commission's decision on this case.

I believe Dominion's new proposal will threaten the viability of home solar in our community by punishing existing solar customers and shutting out future customers to this opportunity. From what I've read about Dominion's proposal and from what I've heard from my fellow citizens – this proposal only benefits the utility at the expense of our communities and the environment.

I would like to urge the commission to adopt a more reasonable and fair rate structure for rooftop solar installations that would maintain the viability of home solar as a resource for our citizens and as a benefit to our state.

Sincerely,



Christie Rainwater
Mayor, City of Hanahan, SC

1 - <https://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/story/why-sc-should-embrace-rooftop-solar-and-energy-efficiency>

**City of Hanahan
Resolution #5-2021 -
Urging the South Carolina Public Service Commission to Adopt a Viable Rate Structure
for Rooftop Solar Installation**

WHEREAS, the City of Hanahan supports clean energy sources, like solar, for electricity generation as a means to reduce air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions related to traditional energy production;

WHEREAS, the City of Hanahan has made great efforts to be more environmentally sustainable in our policies, planning, and operations.

WHEREAS, the City of Hanahan acknowledges the solar energy industry has a \$1.5 billion impact in the state, contributes more than \$58.8 million in state and local taxes annually, and supports 7,250 South Carolina jobs;

WHEREAS, the City of Hanahan acknowledges an added benefit to an increase in solar power to the grid is that home solar being a distributed source of energy generation will help the state be more resilient in the face of a hurricane, flood, or other disaster;

WHEREAS, South Carolina utility customers pay high electricity bills and affordable rooftop solar programs provide customers with a way to decrease their energy bills and energy usage and the City of Hanahan supports a rate structure for rooftop solar installation that promotes the use of renewable energy in South Carolina;

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Public Service Commission is considering Dominion Energy of South Carolina's proposed solar net metering plan or "Solar Choice Metering Tariff" (Docket 2020-229-E);

WHEREAS, the proposals set forth by Dominion Energy and the Office of Regulatory Staff include pricing structures that would significantly increase the fixed cost that Dominion charges solar customers, would add a mandatory fee that would be calculated based on the number and generation capacity of the solar panels that customers install, decrease the value of solar energy sold back by customers, and would cause a substantial decrease in new rooftop solar installations by individuals and businesses;

WHEREAS, the rate structures proposed by Dominion Energy and the Office of Regulatory Staff would result in higher utility bills for customers, a loss of jobs in the

rooftop solar industry, and would not provide for the growth of renewable energy as specified as a state goal in Act 62 of 2019;

WHEREAS, the solar advocates in the proceeding proposed a time of use rate for rooftop solar that correctly recognizes costs and benefits related to rooftop solar as required by Act 62;

WHEREAS, the City of Hanahan and its citizens, as Dominion Energy customers, would be materially harmed by the approval of the Dominion or Office of Regulatory Staff proposals; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, this __ day of April 2021, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hanahan, South Carolina, hereby respectfully request the South Carolina Public Service Commission to adopt a rate structure for rooftop solar installations in the Dominion territory that would continue to promote the use of renewable energy by current Dominion customers.



Christie Rainwater, Mayor

Attest:


Emily Huff, Clerk to Council